

Application No.: 10/594,973
Art Unit: 2162

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 063113

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 10. In the attached sheet of drawings, the underline of letters “No” has been deleted on S88.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 7 has been amended. It is submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 30, 2008.

Disposition of Claims

In Office Action Summary, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-10 are pending in the application. However, by the Response filed on September 3, 2008, Applicants elected Group I (claims 1-10) from pending claims 1-20 in response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 19, 2008. Therefore, claims 1-20 are still pending and claims 11-20 are withdrawn from consideration. As such, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner corrects the disposition of claims with our next Patent Office response.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi (USP 6,952,522).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Takahashi considers, when the signal (corresponding to the main information in the present claimed invention) is recorded on a recording medium, a large number of buffer is needed due to many seeks for a continuous playback, if information which should be reproduced continuously are divided into and arranged. Takahashi also discloses that the signal is recorded in free area having a size equal to or larger than a predetermined time length in an operation to record a signal onto a recording medium.

On the other hand, an object of the present claimed invention is to make possible writing/reading of the information about the directory in a file system which manages files hierarchically by files on which a main information is recorded and a directory which is a storage place of a plurality of files, even if there are accidents, such as power supply cutoff. The feature of that structure is in the method of recording directory information.

As mentioned above, the present claimed invention distinguishes over Takahashi because Takahashi only teaches where the main information is recorded.

In addition, while Takahashi discloses the FAT system as the Examiner mentioned in the Action, Takahashi only states the structure of FAT and the management in sector units.

As to claim 1

Claim 1 recites that predetermined information is first recorded in a work sector before performing primary recording as well as the number of mountings of the file system is further recorded in the work sector.

Takahashi fails to disclose these features.

Specifically, Takahashi only describes, in col.5, lines 56-63, a general explanation of the FAT system and it is not related to the feature of the present claimed invention. Takaliashi teaches which area the main information is recorded on and Takahashi is different from the present claimed invention in the method of recording the directory for controlling the location of the main information (Please see col.6, lines 9-40 of Takahashi).

Accordingly, claim 1 distinguishes over Takahashi.

Claims 2-6 are dependent from claim 1 and recite the additional features set forth therein. Accordingly, claims 2-6 also distinguish over Takahashi for at least the reasons set forth above.

As to claim 7

Claim 7 recites that a file system which writes in and reads from a recording medium per predetermined unit is used, and information about the directory is separated by a predetermined offset and a plurality of the information pieces are written in the predetermined unit.

That is, it means that Claim 7 recites that there is a plurality of the information about the same directory. In order to clarify this point, claim 7 has been amended to recite "*information about the directory is written in the predetermined unit a plurality of times such that the plurality of the information about the directory written in the predetermined unit are separated from each other by a predetermined offset.*" This Amendment is supported by Fig. 10 and the specification (page 18, lines 16-30).

It is submitted that Takahashi fails to disclose that a plurality of the information about the same directory is written in. Specifically, in col.5, lines 36-39, Takahashi explains in the case of recording additional main information, not the information about the directory. Further, that main information temporarily overlaps only a small part and finally the areas of overlap are lost. (Please see the Fig9, for example.)

These features of Takahashi are not directed to the writing of the information about the directory. Therefore, Takahashi fails to disclose that a plurality of that information is written in for the purpose of the backup.

Accordingly, claim 7 distinguishes over Takahashi.

Claims 8-10 are dependent from claim 1 and recite the additional features set forth therein. Accordingly, claims 8-10 also distinguish over Takahashi for at least the reasons set forth above.

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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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